

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Patricia A. Lundstrom
New Mexico State Representative
Chair, Legislative Finance Committee
325 Don Gaspar Avenue, Suite 101
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Representative Lundstrom:

This letter is to inform you that the Indian Affairs Committee has heard testimony from the Santa Fe Indian School related to the school's academic performance and capital outlay priorities for the upcoming 2022 legislative session. The Santa Fe Indian School is requesting \$3 million in general obligation bond funding to provide resources for planning, design and initial construction to renovate the Paolo Soleri Amphitheater into a student-based performing arts center on the Santa Fe Indian School campus.

Santa Fe Indian School representatives clarified for the Indian Affairs Committee that the school is recognized as a statewide educational institution and that students who attend the school come from nearly a dozen counties across the state and represent the 19 Indian pueblos, the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The committee has also come to understand that, unlike other entities such as higher education institutions, public schools and other statewide public facilities, the Santa Fe Indian School does not have any other avenue for presenting capital outlay requests at a formal capital outlay public hearing. Hence, the school is presenting its capital outlay priority to the Indian Affairs Committee.

The Indian Affairs Committee was particularly impressed with the academic performance of Santa Fe Indian School students and the school's overall graduation rates. The school is educating a segment of New Mexico's student population that would otherwise be required to attend public schools where additional operating dollars would need to be allocated by the state to support those students.

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The Indian Affairs Committee respectfully requests that the Legislative Finance Committee consider the Santa Fe Indian School's general obligation bond funding capital outlay request for recommendation to the legislature and to the governor for funding as a statewide project.

Sincerely,

GEORGENE LOUIS
State Representative, District 26
Co-Chair, Indian Affairs Committee

SHANNON D. PINTO
State Senator, District 3
Co-Chair, Indian Affairs Committee

GL/SDP:clm

cc: Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
David Abbey, Director, Legislative Finance Committee
Senator George K. Munoz, Vice Chair, Legislative Finance Committee